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2430 K Street, N. W.

August 7, 1947

VIA AIRMAIL

United States Government
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
London Bureau

Dear Russ:

I am sorry I have not had an opportunity to write you recently and keep you up to date. I have been rather snowed under for the past week or so.

We are at present making estimates for our 1949 budget. [redacted] is carrying most of this load.

[redacted] is on a week's vacation.

[redacted] is here and is working in the Far Eastern Section.

[redacted] returned from his leave yesterday, and after squaring away a few administrative matters will start in the European Section Monday.

General Sibert is in Hawaii and should be in [redacted] in a day or two

[redacted] is all set to come to London and should arrive on or about the 20th of August.

I have been fighting quite a battle over this classification business, and I have really done almost everything that I think possible to get the ratings established as we had recommended. I am not too optimistic about the outcome. However, [redacted] has appealed to [redacted] to go to the Commission personally and attempt to support his recommendations, and he has agreed to do this. I think that it is definite that the job of the Chief of this Branch and the Deputy Chief will be down graded one grade from that which we recommended. Accordingly, it is reasonable to assume that many of the other jobs will also be down graded. I am making an appeal to leave the field grades as they are regardless of what the outcome of the others may be, but I am not sure how we are going to come out. We should know within a very few days.

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This has been a tough battle, and I have done everything possible that I know how to do. In connection with this classification I do not believe that CIG has pushed the two top jobs too hard, and certainly hope that in time Civil Service will be more approachable on this score than they are at present.

25X1A [redacted] have told me that they believe the London copy is not as good as it used to be. They say that the amount received which is not useable is increasing, and that there is more marginal material than there used to be. It seems here that this might be attributed to the fact that [redacted] operations have been curtailed so that our take is not as valuable as it used to be. If this is not the case then our London editorial judgment is not as good as it once was. I know that you being personally on the job will improve this situation if it has actually deteriorated as [redacted] and 25X1A [redacted] seem to think.

25X1A I should know very shortly what the final outcome on this classification business is and will take some definite action to help the London personnel situation as soon as I can. CIG will not approve of our sending any more people to overseas installations who have not been cleared for security. Consequently, it is necessary to check our suggestions against their list. Unfortunately, we never know who is on the list unless we ask them specifically for permission to send a certain person overseas. Of your suggestions only [redacted] 25X1A [redacted] is O.K. with CIG to come to London at this point. If possible I believe that we should give her considerable additional training before sending her to an overseas installation. Also our Special Reports Division is going to be very seriously crippled before too long, and I hope that she will be of some value in there by that time.

25X1A I have spoken to [redacted] about coming to London. He is interested and we are withholding our final decision pending the outcome of this classification survey. The other people I have to suggest are [redacted] 25X1A [redacted] who is the amputee who came to work for us just recently. I have spoken to none of these people except [redacted]. It seems to me that we should send you at least two people who are already cleared for security, even 25X1A if your present arrangement proves to be a good one. Of course, any new employees, after going through the security investigation and being oriented here in Washington, would not arrive in London before late this year. In any case, London will certainly need some help before that time.

25X1A The Administrative Assistant's job for [redacted] has been approved for a CAF-9. I have hired [redacted] who was chief of the pay roll section in the Finance Division for this job, and will notify [redacted] officially that he is 25X1A on his way out. I know this may not please [redacted] but feel sure it is the 25X1A thing to do in this instance. I do not know exactly when he will leave Washington as yet.

Work at the Briggs school building is coming along nicely, and we will definitely be moved by September 1, 1947.

We are all set here to follow through with the survey team when we are over the necessary hurdles.

I hope you are enjoying your stay in London. I saw Betty today and she looks fine.

Sincerely,

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Acting Chief, FBIS